Mansoor's Big Question

By Mansoor Ali Shah
لَا إِلٰهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدٌ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ

Baba: Mansoor, my dear, why do you look so deep in thought today?

Mansoor: Baba, at school today, my teacher said that as Muslims, we have to pray five times a day, fast in Ramadan, and give charity. I heard my friends talking about doing extra prayers and fasts. Baba, do we have to do more than what Allah has told us?

Baba: That's a very good question, Mansoor! Let me tell you a story from the time of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ). One day, a man from Najd with messy hair came to the Prophet ﷺ and asked about Islam. He wanted to know what was required of him.

Mansoor: What did the Prophet ﷺ say, Baba?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ told him that he had to pray five times a day. The man asked, "Is there any more?" The Prophet ﷺ said, "No, but if you want to offer extra prayers, you can." Then the Prophet ﷺ told him about fasting in Ramadan. Again, the man asked, "Is there any more?" The Prophet ﷺ replied, "No, but if you want to fast extra, you can." Lastly, the Prophet ﷺ told him about giving Zakat, the charity that helps those in need. The man asked, "Is there anything more?" The Prophet ﷺ said, "No, unless you want to give more on your own."

Mansoor: Oh! So the man only had to do what Allah made compulsory?

Baba: Exactly, my son. The man then said, "By Allah! I will neither do less nor more than this." And do you know what the Prophet ﷺ said?

Mansoor: What did he say, Baba?

Baba: The Prophet ﷺ said, "If he speaks the truth, he will be successful." This means that if we follow what Allah has commanded us sincerely, we will reach Jannah, inshaAllah.

Mansoor: That makes sense, Baba. So, I must always do my prayers, fasting, and charity. But if I want to do extra, it is my choice?

Baba: Yes, my dear. Doing extra good deeds brings us closer to Allah, but the most important thing is to be sincere in what we do. Allah loves those who follow His commands with a true heart.

Mansoor: Thank you, Baba! I will do my best to pray, fast, and give charity. And when I grow up, I will try to do extra too!

Baba: That's my good boy! May Allah always guide you on the right path, Ameen.